

✓ Claim 3, line 1, change "characterized by" to --comprising--

✓ Claim 4, line 1, change "according to any of claims 1 to 4" to --as in claim 1--

5. (Amended) ^{the} A method [according to] as in claim 4, wherein said imidazole ring-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of imidazole, histidine, imidazoleacrylic acid, imidazolecarboxyaldehyde, imidazoledithiocarboxylic acid, imidazoledicarboxylic acid, imidazolemethanol, imidazolidinethione, imidazolidone, histamine [or] and imidazopyridine.

6. (Amended) ^{The} A method according to claim 4, wherein said indole ring-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of tryptophan, indoleacrylic acid, indole, indoleacetic acid, indoleacetic hydrazide, methyl indoleacetate, indolebutyric acid, indoleacetonitrile acid, indoleethanol, indolelactic acid, indolemethanol, indolepropionic acid, indolepyruvic acid, indolyl methyl ketone, indomycin, indoleacetone, indomethacin, indoprofen [or] and indolmine.

✓ Claim 7, line 2, change "characterized by" to --comprising--

8. (Amended) ^{the} A method as in claim 1, wherein the [for treating a virus-containing sample, characterized by treatment of a virus-containing sample with a] treatment solution also contains [containing (1) a chaotropic ion, (2) an acidifying agent and (3)] a nonionic surfactant.

✓ Claim 9, line 1, change "according to any one of claims 1 to 9" to --as in claim 1--

10. (Amended) ^{the} A method [according to] as in claim 9, wherein said virus is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis D virus, hepatitis E virus, hepatitis G virus, hand-foot-and-mouth disease virus, a flavivirus (yellow fever virus, West

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Nile virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, dengue virus), a togavirus (alpha-virus, rubivirus, arterivirus, rubella virus) a pestivirus (hog cholera virus, bovine diarrhea virus), a paramyxovirus (parainfluenza virus, measles virus, mumps virus), an orthomyxovirus (human influenza virus, avian influenza virus, equine influenza virus, swine influenza virus), a rhabdovirus (rabies virus, vesicular stomatitis virus), a picornavirous (poliovirus, Coxsackie virus, echovirus, bovine enterovirus, porcine enterovirus, simian enterovirus, mouse encephalitis virus, human rhinovirus, bovine rhinovirus, equine rhinovirus, foot and mouth disease virus, hepatitis A virus), a coronavirus (human coronavirus, avian infectious bronchitis virus, mouse hepatitis virus, porcine transmissible gastroenteritis virus), an arenavirus (lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, lassa virus, Korean hemorrhagic fever virus), a retrovirus (HTLV: human adult leukemia virus, HIV: AIDS virus, feline leukemia sarcoma virus, bovine leukemia virus, Rous sarcoma virus), a reovirus (rotavirus), a calcivirus (Norwalk virus), a bunyavirus (renal syndrome hemorrhagic fever virus), a phyllovirus (Ebola virus, Marburg virus), hepatitis B virus (HBV), a pox virus (vaccinia virus), alastrim virus, cowpox virus, smallpox virus), a parvovirus (human parvovirus, porcine parvovirus, bovine parvovirus, canine parvovirus, a feline leucopenia virus, Aleutian mink disease virus), a papovavirus (papilloma virus, polyoma virus), adenovirus, a herpes virus (herpes simplex virus, cytomegalovirus, chickenpox herpes zoster virus, EB virus, equine herpes virus, feline herpes virus, Marek's disease virus) [or] African swine cholera virus.

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11. (Amended) A method [according to any of claims 1 to 10] ^{3,1} as in claim 1, wherein said virus is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis C virus (HCV) [or] and hepatitis B virus (HBV).

- ✓ Claim 12, line 1, change "characterized by" to --involved with--
✓ line 2, change "treating" to --treatment--; same line, change "according to any one of claims 1" to --as in claim 1--
✓ line 3, delete "to 10"
✓ Claim 16, line 5, delete "according to claim 14"

18. (Amended) A kit, assay kit or diagnostic reagent for determining the presence or absence of HCV in a sample, which is for use in an immunoassay method according to claim 12 and comprises a monoclonal antibody produced by hybridoma selected from the group consisting of HC11-14 (FERM BP-6006), HC11-10 (FERM BP-6004) and [or] HC11-11 (FERM BP-6005).

19. (Amended) A diagnostic kit [according to any one of claims 15 to 17] as in claim 15 which further includes a compound selected from the group consisting of urea, an imidazole ring-containing compound and [or] an indole ring-containing compound.

20. (Amended) A diagnostic kit [according to] as in claim 19, wherein said imidazole ring-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of imidazole, histidine, imidazoleacrylic acid, imidazolecarboxyaldehyde, imidazolecarboxamide, imidazoledione, imidazoledithiocarboxylic acid, imidazoledicarboxylic acid, imidazolemethanol, imidazolidinethione, imidazolidone, histamine [or] and imidazopyridine.

21. (Amended) A diagnostic kit [according to] as in claim 19, wherein said indole ring-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of tryptophan, indoleacrylic acid, indole, indoleacetic acid, indoleacetic hydrazide, methyl indoleacetate, indolebutyric acid, indoleacetonitrile, indolecarbinol, indolecarboxyaldehyde, indolecarboxylic acid, indoleethanol,

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indolelactic acid, indolemethanol, indolepropionic acid, indolepyruvic acid, indolyl methyl ketone, indomycin, indoleacetone, indomethacin, indoprofen [or] and indolamine.

✓ Claim 22, line 1, change "characterized by" to --comprising--

✓ Claim 23, line 1, change "according to" to --as in--

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24. (Amended) A method [according to] as in claim 22 [or 23], wherein said tertiary or quaternary amine surfactant is selected from the group consisting of dodecyl-N-sarcosinic acid, a cetyl or dodecyltrimethylammonium salt, 3-(dodecyldimethylammonio)-1propanesulfonic acid, a dodecylpyrimidium salt [or] and decanoyl-N-methylglucamide (MEGA-10).

25. (Amended) A method [according to either of claims 23 or 24] as in claim 23, wherein said nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene nonyl phenyl ether.

✓ Claim 26, lines 1 and 2, change "according to any one of claims 22 to 25" to --as in claim 22--

✓ Claim 27, lines 1 and 2, change "according to any one of claims 22 to 26" to --as in claim 22--

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28. (Amended) A method [according to] as in claim 27, wherein said virus is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis D virus, hepatitis E virus, hepatitis G virus, hand-foot-and-mouth disease virus, a flavivirus (yellow fever virus, West Nile virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, dengue virus), a togavirus (alpha-virus, rubivirus, arterivirus, rubella virus) a pestivirus (hog cholera virus, bovine diarrhea virus), a paramyxovirus (parainfluenza virus 1, 2, 3, 4, canine distemper virus, Newcastle disease virus, RS virus, rinderpest virus, simian parainfluenza virus, measles virus, mumps virus), an orthomyxovirus

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(human influenza virus, avian influenza virus, equine influenza virus, swine influenza virus), a rhabdovirus (rabies virus, vesicular stomatitis virus), a picornavirus (poliovirus, Coxsackie virus, echovirus, bovine enterovirus, porcine enterovirus, simian enterovirus, mouse encephalitis virus, human rhinovirus, bovine rhinovirus, equine rhinovirus, foot and mouth disease virus, hepatitis A virus), a coronavirus (human coronavirus, avian infectious bronchitis virus, mouse hepatitis virus, porcine transmissible gastroenteritis virus), an arenavirus (lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, lassa virus, Korean hemorrhagic fever virus), a retrovirus (HTLV: human adult leukemia virus, HIV: AIDS virus, feline leukemia sarcoma virus, bovine leukemia virus, Rous sarcoma virus), a reovirus (rotavirus), a calcivirus (Norwalk virus), a bunyavirus (Ebola virus, Marburg virus), hepatitis B virus (HBV), a pox virus (vaccinia virus, alastrim virus, cowpox virus, smallpox virus), a parvovirus (human parvovirus, porcine parvovirus, bovine parvovirus, canine parvovirus, feline leucopenia virus, Aleutian mink disease virus), a papovavirus (papilloma virus, polyoma virus), adenovirus, a herpes virus (herpes simplex virus, cytomegalovirus, chickenpox herpes zoster virus, EB virus, equine herpes virus, feline herpes virus, Marek's disease virus) or African swine cholera virus.

✓ Claim 29, lines 1 and 2, change "according to any one of claims 22 to 28" to --as in claim 22--